Revisit Weather Station Fire Rehabilitation treatments

Assess the longer term results of rehabilitation of both shrubs and grass species following the Weather Station fire of 2005. This area is on the Saddle Mountain Refuge portion of the Hanford Reach National Monument. Again, having longer term monitoring results for rehabilitation and restoration in shrub-steppe is critical to both understanding the success of treatments over time but also to do adaptive management and make successful future efforts in restoring shrub-steppe ecosystems across the western United States. This area is fortunate to have pre-fire, and existing short-term monitoring results, so adding another monitoring visit will give a more complete picture of the treatment successes and help with adaptive management for future rehabilitation. This project will also inform managers on how to increase ecosystem resiliency after fires. This will be applicable to climate change as the success of rehabilitation treatments are closely tied to weather conditions during and immediately following the rehabilitation treatments. This information would be critical to understanding the dynamics of shrub-steppe rehabilitation throughout the western United States in shrub-steppe ecosystems. The monitoring plots are designed to be compatible with many shrub-steppe monitoring projects throughout the West. Understanding the extent of ongoing successes seen in initial (year 2 post-fire) rehabilitation monitoring efforts, and reassessing areas where initial success was lower will help interpret short term result accuracy. Monitoring of newly discovered annual rare plant populations in areas within versus outside of successful drill seeded grasses may inform the extent and locations of future rehabilitation efforts.

Estimated cost: $50,000-60,000